

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:JPLORENZ
APPROVED BY: IO:MNIMETZ
USUN: EMEZVINSKY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027835

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CY, UN, PEPR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS
NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA

REFERENCE: STATE 26512

1. REFTEL REPORTS ESENBEL'S JANUARY 30 CONVERSATION WITH
NIMETZ, IN WHICH ESENBEL EXPRESSED ANKARA'S CONCERN THAT A
BITTER DEBATE ON CYPRUS AT NEXT MONTH'S UN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION MEETINGS COULD DAMAGE PROSPECTS FOR RESUMPTION
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OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. ESENBEL WENT ON TO REQUEST US
HELP IN DEFERRING TO NEXT YEAR CONSIDERATION OF THE CYPRUS
ITEM. THIS DEMARCHE PROVIDES AN OPENING FOR REMINDER TO
PARTIES OF DESIRABILITY OF RESUMING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS
ON A MISSING PERSONS AGREEMENT AND OF OUR CONTINUING WILL-
INGNESS TO PROVIDE OUR GOOD OFFICES.

2. EMBASSY ANKARA SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH MFA AT LEVEL CONSIDERED MOST EFFECTIVE:

A) WE SHARE TURKEY'S CONCERN, AS CONVEYED BY AMBASSADOR ESENBEL, THAT UNHRC CONSIDERATION OF THE CYPRUS HUMAN RIGHTS ITEM IS LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY CONTENTIOUS AND COULD ENDANGER SUCCESSFUL RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, AS WELL AS HAVE UNDESIRABLE INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS. UNDER PRESENT

CIRCUMSTANCES WE SEE NO REALISTIC POSSIBILITY OF AVOIDING ANY CYPRUS-RELATED UNHRC DEBATE, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF CYPRUS TO LATE IN THE SESSION. WHEN THE ITEM COMES UP, THE US DELEGATION WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF TURKISH CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVES. BEYOND THAT AND OUR BASIC DESIRE FOR EVENHANDEDNESS, WE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT OUR SUBSTANTIVE ROLE WILL BE.

B) IN OUR VIEW, BEST HOPE FOR AVOIDING AN UNHELPFUL DEBATE AND RESOLUTION WOULD BE FOR ACTIVE, SERIOUS TALKS TO BE UNDERWAY ONCE AGAIN ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE. LAST FALL AT THE UNGA A DAMAGING DEBATE ON MISSING PERSONS QUESTION WAS AVOIDED BECAUSE REAL PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE AT THAT TIME ON SETTING UP COMMITTEE AND THAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AGAIN.

C) IF REQUESTED BY THE PARTIES, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO
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MEET SEPARATELY WITH THEM AT GENEVA DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE UNHRC MEETINGS TO RESUME THE MISSING PERSONS DISCUSSIONS. (MEZVINSKY WILL BE PRESENT IN GENEVA AS HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION.) IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT WE SEE NO PURPOSE IN RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS UNLESS BOTH SIDES ARE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE. IN TURKEY'S CASE, THIS WOULD INVOLVE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST PROCEED BEYOND WORKING PAPER 3, REV. 3. DENKTASH, FOR HIS PART, APPEARS READY TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, SO LONG AS CENTRAL OBJECTIVE IS TO CLARIFY THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT DECISIONS ARE TAKEN CUSTOMARILY BY CONSENSUS. YOU SHOULD INFORM MFA THAT WE WILL ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN NICOSIA TO ASCERTAIN THEIR POSITION REGARDING RESUMED DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA. (SEE NICOSIA 234 FOR DENKTASH'S VIEWS.)

D) THE REPUTATION OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND HIS GOVERNMENT AS ADVOCATES OF ENHANCED HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD HELP IN WINNING WORLD APPROVAL OF REASONABLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION AND MINIMIZE RISKS OF COMMITTEE BECOMING ANTI-TURKISH PROPAGANDA FORUM.

E) FOR RESUMED TALKS TO HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE UNHRC DEBATE, THEY SHOULD PROBABLY BEGIN THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6. WE WOULD THUS HOPE TO HAVE TURKEY'S VIEWS THIS WEEK.

3. FOR NICOSIA: YOU SHOULD INFORM DENKTASH OF OUR APPROACH IN ANKARA, MAKING THOSE POINTS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE TO HIM AS WELL. YOUR APPROACH (LIKE ANKARA'S) SHOULD BE SO COUCHED AS TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO BE OF HELP TO BOTH SIDES, BUT WE DO NOT INTEND TO PRESS THE MATTER FURTHER IF THE CYPRUS PARTIES DO NOT CONSIDER A MISSING PERSONS AGREEMENT IN THEIR INTEREST AND WORTH MAKING SMALL CONCESSIONS TO ACHIEVE. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. YOU SHOULD ALSO APPROACH GOC TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CONTENTIOUS GENEVA DEBATE ON INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND TO INDICATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH THE PARTIES IN GENEVA FOR FURTHER MISSING PERSONS NEGOTIATIONS. AS WITH DENKTASH, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO PUSH THE PARTIES AGAINST THEIR WILL. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD INFORM GOC THAT WE ARE PREDICATING OUR OWN WILLINGNESS TO BE OF FURTHER HELP UPON TURKISH AGREEMENT TO ABANDON ITS PRESENT INSISTENCE THAT NO MOVEMENT CAN BE MADE BEYOND WP3, REV. 3. (YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT WE HAVE NO REASON TO ASSUME TURKEY WILL AGREE TO THIS CONDITION.) FOR GOC'S PART, WE WOULD WISH TO BE REASSURED THAT THEY WILL SEND TO GENEVA A SENIOR, EMPOWERED OFFICIAL (WE HAVE IN MIND PAPADOPOULOS OR CHRISTOPHIDES) IF THERE IS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON THE TURKISH SIDE.

5. USUN SHOULD INFORM SECRETARIAT OF THESE APPROACHES. VANCE

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